(10)

HIS

MAIESTIES LETTER,

DIRECTED

To the Lords and Commons of PARLIAMENT Assembled at WESTMINSTER:

CONCERNING

A Treaty for Peace.

With the Answer of both Houses thereunto; sent to His Majesty to *Oxford*, *March* 9. 1643.

Die Martis, 12 *Mart.* 1643.

Ordered this day by the Lords in Parliament, that the Printer belonging to the House of Peeres shall print His Majesties Letter dated the 3 of March; and the Answer thereunto sent to His Majesty from both Houses of Parliament, dated the 9 of this instant. And that no man shall presume to reprint the said Letter and Answer, as he will answer the contrary to this House at his perill. J. Brown Cler. Parliamentorum.

LONDON,
Printed for *John Wright* in the Old-baily,
March. 13. 1643.

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BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

TO THE

LORDS AND COMMONS OF PARLIAMENT

Assembled at *Westminster*.

CHARLES REX.

AT of Our most tender and pious sence of the sad and bleeding condition of this Our Kingdom, and Our inwearied desires to apply all Remedies which by the blessing of Almighty God may recover it from an utter ruine; By the advice of the Lords and Commons of Parliament assembled at Oxford, We doe propound and desire, That a convenient number of fit persons may be

appointed and authorized by you to meet (with all convenient speed, at such place as you shall nominate) both an equall number of fit persons, whom We shall appoint and authorize to Treat of the waies and meanes to settle the present distractions of this Our Kingdome, and to procure a happy Peace; And particularly, how all the Members of both Houses may securely meet in a free and full Convention of Parliament, there to treat, consult, and agree upon such things as may conduce to the maintenance and defence of the true Reformed Protestant Religion, with due consideration to all just and reasonable ease of tender consciences; To the setling and maintaining of Our just Rights and Prerogatives, of the Rights and Privileges of Parliament, the Lawes of the Land, the Liberty and Property of the Subject, and all other expedients that may conduce to that blessed end of a firme and lasting Peace, both in Church and State, and a perfect understanding betwixt Us and Our People: Wherein no endeavours or concurrency of Ours shall be wanting. And God direct your hearts in the wayes of Peace. Oxford, the 9 of March. 1643.

May it please Your Majestie;

WE the Lords and Commons assembled in the Parliament of *England*, taking into our consideration a Letter sent from Your Majestie, dated the third of March instant, and directed, *To the Lords and Commons of Parliament assembled at Westminster* (which by the contents of a Letter from the Earle of *Forth* unto the Lord Generall the Earle of *Essex*, we conceive was intended to Our selves) have resolved, with the concurrent advice and consent of the Commissioners of the Kingdome of *Scotland*, to represent to Your Majesty, in all humility, and plainnesse, as followeth.

THat as we have used all meanes for a just and a safe Peace; so will we never be wanting

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ing to doe our utmoſt for the procuring thereof: But when we conſider the Expreſſions in that Letter of Your Majeſties, we have more ſad and deſpairing thoughts of attaining the ſame, then ever; becauſe thereby thoſe perſons now aſſembled at *Oxford*, who contrary to their duty have deſerted Your Parliament, are put into an equall condition with it: And this preſent Parliament, convened according to the knowne and fundamentall Lawes of the Kingdome (the continuance whereof is eſtabliſhed by a Law conſented unto by Your Majeſty) is in effect denied to be a Parliament; the ſcope and intention of that Letter being, to make proviſion, how all the Members (as is pretended) of both Houſes may ſecurely meet in a full and free Convention of Parliament; whereof no other concluſion can be made, but that this preſent Parliament is not a full nor free Convention: And that to make it a full and free Convention of Parliament, the preſence of thoſe is neceſſary; who, notwithſtanding that they have deſerted that great Truſt, and doe leavy Warre againſt the Parliament, are pretended to be Members of the two Houſes of Parliament.

And hereupon we thinke our ſelves bound to

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let Your Majeſty know, That ſeeing the continuance of this Parliament is ſetled by a Law (which as all other Laws of Your Kingdomes) Your Majeſtie hath ſworne to maintaine, as we are ſworne to our allegiance to Your Majeſty (theſe obligations being Reciprocall) we muſt in duty, and accordingly are reſolved with our Lives and Fortunes to defend and preſerve the juſt Rights and full Power of this Parliament; And doe beſeech Your Majeſty to bee aſſured, That Your Majeſties Royall and hearty concurrence with us herein, will be the moſt effectuall and ready meanes of procuring a firme and laſting Peace in all Your Majeſties Dominions; and of begetting a perfect Underſtanding betweene Your Majeſty and Your People: without which Your Majeſties moſt earneſt Profeſſions, and our moſt reall Intentions concerning the ſame, muſt neceſſarily bee fruſtrated. And in caſe Your Majeſties three Kingdomes ſhould by reaſon thereof remaine in this ſad and bleeding condition, tending (by the Continuance of this unnaturall warre) to their Ruine; Your Majeſty cannot bee the leaſt, nor the laſt Sufferer. God in his Goodneſſe, incline Your Royall breaſt, out of pitty and com-

compassion to those deepe sufferings of Your Innocent people, to put a speedy, and happy end to these desperate Evils, by the joynt Advice of both your Kingdomes now happily united in this Cause by their late solemne League and Covenant; which as it will prove the surest Remedy, so it is the earnest prayer of Your Majesties Loyall Subjects, *The Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament of England. Westminster, the 9. of March* 1643.

FINIS.